

## REMARKS

## Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 12-13 and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Voogel (US 6,137,714).

Directing Examiner's attention to MPEP 2131, the threshold issue under Section 102 is whether the Examiner has established a *prima facie* case for anticipation. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)". "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ...claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Claims 12 and 17 have been amended to include the limitations of Claims 14 and 19 respectively, reciting a method for interconnecting nodes in an integrated circuit device comprising the step of periodically coupling a voltage "wherein periodically coupling a voltage comprises periodically coupling a voltage having a magnitude sufficient to turn on said switching transistor without a  $V_{th}$  drop."

Voogel does not teach such limitations. Examiner admits as much under the Allowable Subject Matter section of the Office Action dated August 31, 2004, stating, "Claims 14-16, 19-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims ... The prior art of record fail to disclose ... the step of periodically coupling a voltage comprises periodically coupling a voltage having magnitude sufficient to turn on the switching transistor without a  $V_{th}$  drop (claims 14 and 19) ...."

Since Claims 12 and 17 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 14 and 19, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 12 and 17 are not anticipated by Voogel, and therefore, are in condition for allowance.

Examiner's rejection with respect to Claims 13 and 18 is moot since Claims 13 and 18 have been canceled.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application, the Examiner may telephone the undersigned at 775-586-9500.

Respectfully submitted,  
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth D'Alessandro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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